

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION ISSUED ON CARAMANLIS'
INTERVIEW IN LONDON TIMES.

1. A GOG SPOKESMAN ISSUED A BRIEF STATEMENT ON BACK-
GROUND ON JULY 12 CLARIFYING REMARKS REPORTEDLY MADE
BY PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY
OF WAR IN THE BALKANS WHICH APPEARED THE PREVIOUS DAY
IN THE LONDON TIMES. IN THE COURSE OF AN INTERVIEW
WITH TIMES' ATHENS CORRESPONDENT MARIO MODIANO,
CARAMANLIS REPORTEDLY STATED THAT "I DO NOT BELIEVE
THERE WILL BE A WORLD WAR. BUT THERE IS ONE PLACE
OUTSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST WHERE THERE CAN BE A LOCAL
WAR AND THAT IS THE BALKANS." CARAMANLIS CONTINUED,
ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, "...HERE FIVE DIFFERENT RACES,
RELIGIONS AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS MEET AND COEXIST. THE
BALANCE OF POWER IS VERY DELICATE. WHAT WE NEED IS TO
CONSOLIDATE THIS COEXISTENCE."

2. THE OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION WAS CARRIED IN
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THE ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN JULY 14, ATTRIBUTED

TO AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE. THE SOURCE DENIED THAT SUCH AN INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE AND STATED THAT THE VIEWS ATTRIBUTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER WERE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE CORRESPONDENT BASED ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN THE LATTER WAS ON HIS WAY TO BULGARIA (PM VISITED SOFIA JULY 2-4). THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS WERE "A SIMPLE HYPOTHETICAL VIEW OF THE WORLD SITUATION" AND THAT THE POSITION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IS THAT IN ALL CASES IT DESIRES A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF DISPUTES AND PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED THAT, AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DECLARED (SEPTTEL REPORTING CARAMANLIS' JULY 11 SPEECH TO NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTIES), "TURKEY EITHER DOES NOT WISH TO OR CANNOT ADVANCE TO A DIALOGUE AS A MEANS OF FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE EXISTING DISPUTES."

3. WEEKEND NEWSPAPERS REPLAYED THE TIMES REPORT ROUTINELY. HOWEVER, THE OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION APPEARED ONLY IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWS. THE NEWS ADDED THAT THE NEXT FEW DAYS ARE CRITICAL IN THAT THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUP AGAINST MAKARIOS COULD TEMPT TURKEY TO MORE PROVOCATIONS IN CYPRUS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE GREEK LANGUAGE PRESS TREATED THE TIMES REPORT OF THE "INTERVIEW" ROUTINELY, THE GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY FELT SUFFICIENTLY PERTURBED WITH THE ATHENS NEWS HEADLINE ("WAR WITH TURKEY PROBABLE") AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SUBSEQUENT STORIES ON THE SUBJECT TO ISSUE A PROMPT CLARIFICATION. THIS SHOULD BE FURTHER VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THIS WEEK'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUP AGAINST MAKARIOS AND THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS DURING WHICH NERVE ENDINGS HERE WILL BE PARTICULARLY TENDER. THE MAJOR OBSERVANCE EVENT SCHEDULED WILL BE A POPULAR RALLY THE EVENING OF JULY 15 AT CONSTITUTION SQUARE. PARTICIPANTS WILL INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CYPRUS (CYPRIOT DEPUTY CHRISTOPHIDES) AND SEVERAL OFFICIALS OF THE WORLD CONGRESS OF PEACE LOVING FORCES (ITS PRESIDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROMES SANDRA AND OTHERS). MEANWHILE, PRESS REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WANTS THIS ANNIVERSARY PERIOD TREATED AS A TIME OF MOURNING RATHER THAN OF INFLAMMATORY AGITATION. KUBISCH

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